GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4812
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
SAFE/UNSAFE
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for Occupational Health has suggested for the used safe asbestos;

(b) if so, the details of the distinctions between safe asbestos and unsafe asbestos currently used in the country; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the NIOH to further increase occupational safety in use of asbestos?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(c): No, Sir. According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) NIOH, Ahmedabad has not suggested any safe use o asbestos. The Council, is of the view that long term exposure to any type of asbestos can lead to development of asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. The magnitude of the problem will depend on concentration of asbestos fibres inhaled and the period for which it is inhaled. However, various standards have been prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to ensure safety in handling and uses of asbestos & asbestos products.